

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Kenneth W. Maze, et al.
Serial No: As a Divisional Application of Applicant Serial No. 08/687,285
Filed: Via U.S. Express Mail No. EL759991891 US
For: A SCHEDULER APPARATUS EMPLOYING A GOPHER AGENT
FOR USE IN A TELEVISION RECEIVER

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Honorable Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir,

Please enter the following amendment for the divisional application
identified above and attached herewith:

In the Specification

Please delete the whole first paragraph starting with "The subject non-
provisional application..." and replace it with the following new paragraph:

"CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS"

This application is a divisional of Application No. 08/687,285, filed on
July 25, 1996, and now issued as U.S. Pat. No. _____, which claims
the benefit of a U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/006,889, filed Nov. 17,
1995."

In the Claims

Please delete claims 1-12 in the present application without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add the following new claims 13-18:

13. A method for processing channel guide information, comprising the steps of:

receiving channel guide information;

receiving a user-entered search request;

performing continuously until said search request is turned off, a search of said channel guide information for a program in said channel guide information having program description that satisfies said user-entered request;

displaying a reminder anytime a program is found in said perform step having program description that satisfies said user-entered request.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein the user-enter search request may be modified when the performing step is on-going.

15. The method of claim 13, wherein the program description comprising at least one of the following information about the program: title, star, director, rating, and plot.

16. A method for processing channel guide information, comprising the steps of:

receiving channel guide information;
receiving a user-entered search request;
performing continuously until said search request is turned off, a
search of said channel guide information for a program in said channel guide
information having program description that satisfies said user-entered
request;
recording automatically without user intervention, a program which is
found in said performing step having program description that satisfies said
user-entered request.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein the user-enter search request
may be modified when the performing step is on-going.

18. The method of claim 16, wherein the program description
comprising at least one of the following information about the program: title,
star, director, rating, and plot.

REMARKS

New claims 13-18 are directed to the "watchdog" aspect of the
present invention. This relates to the aspect that a search function of the
present invention may be run continuously in the background, until the
search instruction is turned off by a user. This aspect of the present
invention is supported by at least pg. 8, lines 3 - 26, Figs. 2, 3, 7 of the
present specification.

In Office Action dated July 5, 2000, for the parent of the present
divisional application, this aspect of the invention was rejected as being
unpatentable over Yoshinobu (US 5,686,954) in view of Ferguson (US
5649186). Applicants respectfully disagree with that holding.

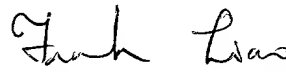
Applicants respectfully submit that, in particular, Ferguson does not teach or suggest the raw incoming data is "*continuously* filtered in order to update a customized newspaper", as contended by Examiner (see pg. 2, section 1 of Action). Examiner specifically pointed to the Abstract of Ferguson for this particular characterization. Applicants have examined the Abstract and the rest of Ferguson carefully and have not found any explicit or implicit teaching that the filtering in Ferguson is done "continuously" as in the present invention.

In fact, on the contrary, Ferguson clearly teaches that the user needs to enter an "update preference (e.g., daily, weekly, or monthly)" so that the system knows at what frequency to update the search results. This aspect of Ferguson is clearly described for example, on col. 5, lines 38 – 46 of Ferguson. Therefore, Ferguson clearly teaches away from the present invention where the search is "*...performing continuously until said search request is turned off, a search of said channel guide information...*" (see, e.g., claim 29. Ferguson, in the opposite, requires the filtering to be performed "periodically" and requires the user to specify a period (daily, weekly, or monthly).

CONCLUSION

Based on the above discussion, it is respectfully submitted that the present pending claims should be allowed over the prior art of record.

Respectfully submitted,
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